

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for his acknowledgment of the references cited in Information Disclosure Statements filed April 21, 2003, February 19, 2003 and May 12, 2001. Additionally, Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim of the present application for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119.

The outstanding Official Action rejected claims 1-5 and 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over COOPER et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,995,140). Claims 6 and 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over COOPER et al.

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-5 and 7-10 will have been amended. Claim 6 will have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter recited therein. In view of the herein-contained amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the claims now pending is allowable over the prior art applied by the Examiner.

Initially, Applicants note that the presently claimed invention results in great benefit not provided by the references applied by the Examiner. In particular, as a result of the present invention recited in, e.g., claims 1, 7 and 9, video output sources can be changed quickly with only a minimal or non-existent disturbance on the display at the time of change.

By the present amendment, claims 1, 7 and 9 have been amended to recite a feature

P20588.A05

related to a controller that turns on the power to a changeover target video output source.

In particular, claims 1 and 7 recite "a controller that turns on the power to said target video output source... based on the changeover instruction". Additionally, claim 9 recites "turning on the power to a changeover target signal source based on a changeover instruction".

Additionally, claims 1, 7 and 9 each recite a feature related to a controller that turns off the power to a video output source to be changed. In particular, claims 1 and 7 recite "a controller that turns... off the power to said video output source to be changed, based on the changeover instruction". Additionally, claim 9 recites "turning off the power to the signal source to be changed".

The above-noted features relate to features previously recited in claim 6, and disclosed, for example, in association with the first embodiment of the present invention described in the specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the present amendments do not add new matter to the present application. Applicants have additionally amended claims 1-5 and 7-10 to delete all "means-plus-function" and "steps-of" language in order to clarify the claimed invention and in order to ensure that the claims of the present invention are not interpreted as reciting "means-plus-function" features. In view of the above-noted amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully assert that the combinations of features recited in each of claims 1, 7 and 9, are not

disclosed or suggested by the references applied by the Examiner.

The outstanding Official Action asserts that "it is well known in the art that a system control unit such as a microprocessor or a microcomputer is used to regulate power by turning on and off the power for individual devices in the system". Applicants respectfully submit that the Official Action is in error, at least insofar as the invention recited in the pending claims is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art. In particular,

Applicants respectfully submit that COOPER et al. does not disclose or suggest turning power on to a target video output source and turning power off to a video output source to be changed, based on a changeover instruction. The prior art does not selectively control power to different video output sources to synchronize an output therefrom. Moreover, the prior art does not synchronize the recited power control operations with a "changeover instruction". Accordingly, the prior art applied by the Examiner does not disclose or suggest synchronizing a plurality of video output sources by turning power off to a video output source to be changed and turning power on to a target video source, in response to a changeover instruction.

Applicants further note that the outstanding Official Action appears to admit that the features now recited in claims 1, 7 and 9 are not disclosed or suggested by the applied prior art (see paragraph bridging pages 6-7 of the Official Action). Accordingly, if the Patent and Trademark Office persists in maintaining that such features are "well known"

or obvious, even in the combination claimed in independent claims 1, 7 and 9, Applicants respectfully request that the Patent and Trademark Office provide evidence of the conventionality of such features, as well as evidence of a sufficient motivation to combine any such teachings with the disclosure of COOPER. Even assuming that such a secondary reference exists, Applicants respectfully submit that no motivation exists to combine such a reference with COOPER, except to reconstruct the invention of the presently claimed invention in hindsight. In this regard, Applicants respectfully submit that the outstanding Official Action has not provided any evidence of such features in the prior art; nor of a motivation to modify the teachings of COOPER with such features sufficient to disclose or suggest the presently claimed invention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the invention recited in claims 1, 7 and 9 is not disclosed or suggested by the references applied by the Examiner. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 2-5, 8 and 10 are allowable, at least for depending, directly or indirectly, from an allowable independent claim, as well as for reasons related to their own recitations.

Accordingly, for at least the above-noted reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections of claims 1-10, as well as an indication of the allowability of each claim pending in the present application.

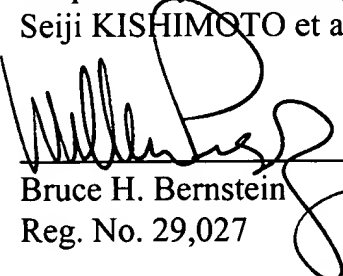
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request an indication to that effect. Applicants have amended the claims of the present application. Applicants have also pointed to specific features of the present invention not disclosed or suggested by the prior art applied in the outstanding Official Action. Accordingly, Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request an indication to that effect.

Any amendments to existing claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Seiji KISHIMOTO et al.

  
Bruce H. Bernstein  
Reg. No. 29,027

September 16, 2003  
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1950 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191  
(703) 716-1191